

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 NEA-10

EB-11 FAA-00 CAB-09 SY-10 USSS-00 OC-06 A-01 DRC-01

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O R 291419Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 32

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS VIENNA 8055

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, AU

SUBJECT: KREISKY INTERVIEW ON TERRORIST INCIDENT

REF: VIENNA 8051

FOLLOWING BASED ON UNOFFICIAL FBIS TRANSLATION OF TEXT, ARE MOST
SIGNIFICANT PASSAGES OF RADIO INTERVIEW GIVEN BY CHANCELLOR KREISKY
AT 0130 GMT SEPTEMBER 29 AFTER DEPARTURE BY PLANE FROM VIENNA OF
TWO ARAB TERRORISTS. QUOTE

1. THE KIDNAPPING AFFAIR HAS BEEN CONCLUDED IN A MANNER
FAVORABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT. NOW THE QUESTION ARISES OF THE BALANCE
BETWEEN THE TWO FACTORS: TWO ARAB TERRORISTS ON ONE SIDE AND
AUSTRIA'S READINESS TO ALLOW GROUPS OF JEWISH EMIGRANTS TO EMIGRATE
TO ISRAEL VIA AUSTRIAN TERRITORY ON OTHER SIDE.

A. I HAD TO LOOK DIFFERENTLY AT THIS MATTER. ONE WHO HAS TO BEAR
THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LIVES OF FOUR PEOPLE MUST WEIGH THE ISSUES.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EQUALLY LIKELY THAT THERE WOULD NOW BE FOUR DEAD
AND POSSIBLY ALSO TWO DEAD TERRORISTS. THIS WAS FOR ME DECISIVE
ISSUE. AFTER THE MUNICH OLYMPIC INCIDENT I HAVE THOUGHT FREQUENTLY
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AND A GREAT DEAL ABOUT WHAT I WOULD DO IN SUCH A SITUATION. I

ARRIVED AT CONCLUSION THAT MAIN THING IS TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE IN ORDER TO PREVENT IRREPAIRABLE DAMAGE. THAT MEANS IF PEOPLE ARE DEAD THEY CANNOT BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE. EVERYTHING ELSE CAN BE SETTLED, CAN BE REPAIRED. FOR ME THIS IS THE ONLY GUIDELINE. EVERYTHING ELSE ARE MATTERS WHICH ARE BEING EXAGGERATED. WE HAVE NOT PREVENTED EMIGRATION, WE ARE NOT BANNING TRANSIT THROUGH AUSTRIA, WE HAVE STOPPED CERTAIN FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR THE FUTURE. I REPEAT, AS IN THE PAST WE WILL CONTINUE ALSO IN FUTURE TO PERMIT EVERYONE WITH A VISA OR NOT, AS REQUIRED, TO TRANSIT AUSTRIA. EVERYTHING ELSE SERVES TO DRAMATIZE THE SITUATION.

Q. HOW DO YOU ASSESS QUESTION WHETHER THIS AUSTRIAN MEASURE WILL, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, RENDER TRANSIT OF JEWISH EMIGRANTS THROUGH AUSTRIA MORE DIFFICULT?

A. PEOPLE TRANSIT AUSTRIA BY RAIL AND EVERYONE CAN DO THIS. WE WILL NOT DO ANYTHING AT BORDER, WE HAVE EXPRESSLY REJECTED THAT DEMAND. IT WAS ALSO DEMANDED FROM US THAT WE SHOULD, SO TO SPEAK, PREVENT TRANSIT BY INDIVIDUALS AND WE HAVE CLEARLY REJECTED THAT DEMAND ALSO.

Q. THE DEMAND OF THE TERRORISTS WHICH YOU JUST CITED WAS ONE OF MANY?

A. YES, IT WAS ONE OF MANY.

Q. WHAT WERE OTHER DEMANDS?

A. ONE DEMAND WAS THAT WE SHOULD BAN ALL TRANSIT THROUGH AUSTRIA OF PEOPLE OF JEWISH FAITH FROM SOVIET UNION WHO WANT TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. WE REJECTED THIS. WE SAID ONLY THAT WE WILL NO LONGER EXTEND AS HITHERTO FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO GROUPS IN TRANSIT. THE SECOND DEMAND WAS THAT WE SHOULD INCLUDE IN THE STATEMENT THAT PERSONS IN TRANSIT ARE BEING ENDANGERED BY PALESTINIAN REVOLUTIONARIES. WE REJECTED THIS, TOO, AND MENTIONED ONLY THE DANGER. THERE WERE A FEW OTHER DEMANDS WHICH I DO NOT RECALL AT MIMMENT. END QUOTE HUMES

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